



Three Alarm News

Volume X, Issue I

Fall 2010

Executive Committee Officers:

- Chief—Gerald Burnett
- President—Greg Cross
- Vice President—Trey Smith
- Secretary—Nick Hickson
- Treasurer—David Dibello

Fireground Officers:

- Fire Chief—Gerald Burnett
- Asst. Chief—Greg Janda
- Asst. Chief—Jason Ware
- Captain—Cary Roccaforte
- Captain—Steven Kehlenbrink
- Captain—Jerry Merker
- Captain—Trey Smith
- Captain—Greg Cross
- Lieutenant—Nick Hickson

Incident Run Totals

2010 YTD as of 10/31/10

FIRE	135
EMS	181
TOTAL	316

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On average, about 13,000 people die annually in motor vehicle accidents related to drinking and driving. The Brazos County Precinct 3 Volunteer Fire Department urges you to designate a sober driver if you choose to drink this holiday season. May you and your family enjoy a safe and joyous holiday and a prosperous new year.

Precinct 3 Firefighters train with new safety equipment

Safety of Fire Department personnel is always a top priority. To that end, we recently purchased three Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) Packs, one for each of our fire engines. If a firefighter becomes lost, disoriented, or trapped in a structure fire, the packs are used by the Rapid Intervention team to rescue the distressed firefighters. The RIT Packs consist of a one hour SCBA cylinder, regulator, mask, SCBA fill hose, and an assortment of disentangling and rescue tools. This equipment allows us to refill the air

supply of a trapped fire fighter while we work to free them and remove them from the structure.



RIT Pack

On November 13th, we conducted scenario based training at Brayton Fire Field to allow our personnel to become familiar with the equipment and practice using it in real world situations. The combination of having RIT Bags available and comprehensive training using it, greatly improves our ability to protect our firefighters should then need arise.

Department Purchases Animal Oxygen Masks to save animals overcome by smoke

The pet oxygen masks will be put into use during house fires and other emergencies. The masks come in sets of three sizes, Large Canine, Small Canine and Feline; but they benefit any animal whose snout you can get in the mask. They can be used on everything from small birds to large dogs.



Firefighter Gear Inspections



The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), a conscience standard group for the fire service, recognizes that a Firefighter's protective gear (Coat, Pants, Hood, Helmet, Boots, and Gloves) can

only protect them if they are properly maintained and in good condition. To that end, the NFPA has developed standards for advanced inspections of gear after it is 3 years old and have placed a 10 year service life on the gear. The Precinct 3 Volunteer Fire Department strives to maintain compliance with applicable NFPA standards to the maximum extent practicable. Properly functioning protective equipment is essential to firefighter safety.

In October of this year, we completed the advanced in-

spections of our gear and made necessary repairs where it was cost effective to do so. We evaluated remaining service life (10 year requirement), cost of repairs, and replacement cost. Items that were not cost effective to repair or could not be repaired were removed from service. We have also developed a replacement plan that ensures compliance with NFPA standards, while allowing us to take maximum advantage of grant funds available and budget for remaining expenses.

Firefighters Receive Medical Screening

Firefighting is a very stressful job, involving periods of intense physical exertion under extreme conditions while wearing approximately 35 pounds of firefighting gear. If a firefighter has a medical problem while performing these duties, it can not only be deadly to them but it also endangers others working in the structure. We have an obligation to provide the safest possible working conditions possible to ensure that everyone goes home at

the end of the day. Medical screening of firefighters both before being assigned to firefighting activities and annually thereafter is essential for everyone's safety.



Precinct 3 Volunteer Fire Department has partnered with the APPLIED EXERCISE SCIENCE LABORATORY, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND KINESIOLOGY, TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY, to provide medical screening services. We have implemented policies to ensure all firefighters receive medical evaluation prior to being assigned to firefighting duties and annually thereafter. Although it is

very rare for volunteer fire departments to provide this service to its members, we feel it is essential for the overall safety of all involved.



We are extremely fortunate to have cost effective services available from a major university like Texas A&M. College Station Fire Department, Bryan Fire Department, and numerous local law enforcement agencies also participate in similar programs with the Applied Exercise Science Laboratory.



For more information visit <http://fitlife.tamu.edu>

Grant from Texas Forest Service supports purchase of replacement apparatus

The Precinct 3 Volunteer Fire Department was recently awarded a \$155,000 grant from the Texas forest Service for the purchase of a Tanker Apparatus.



The Grant is from the VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT (VFD) ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (HB 2604).

Created by the 77th Texas Legislature (HB 2604) the Rural VFD Assistance Program provides \$25 million per year in grants for equipment and training. The Texas Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program is a cost-share program funded by the Texas State Legislature. It provides

funding to rural volunteer fire departments for the acquisition of firefighting vehicles, fire and rescue equipment, protective clothing, county fire radio system components, dry-hydrants, computer systems and firefighter training. Approximately \$23 million is distributed annually under the program.

We will use these funds to purchase a pumper/tanker (combination fire engine and Tanker).

The apparatus will be very similar to our other fire engines with the additional tanker capabilities. This allows us to take advantage of the grant funds, meet department objectives to replace older apparatus, and improve firefighting capabilities within our area and regionally.

Using a competitive bidding process, we received proposals

from several manufactures. A proposal from Martin Apparatus in the amount of \$229,775 was selected by the department.



The proposal meets all requirements and was the low bid. Other bids for the same specifications were as high as \$247,000. Estimated delivery time for the apparatus is 7-8 months. This apparatus will replace our 1981 American LaFrance pumper and will be housed at our station 3, located at 4450 Roans Chapel Rd (off of Hwy 30).



Brazos County Precinct 3
Volunteer Fire Department
P.O. Box 5453
Bryan, TX 77805

Visit our website at www.pct3vfd.com for information regarding membership, current burn bans, and other details about our department.

NAME _____ **PHONE** _____

ADDRESS _____

I would like to make a donation of \$_____. Please make checks payable to Brazos County Precinct 3 VFD. **We greatly appreciate your donation!**

I would like to receive information about becoming a member of Precinct 3 VFD.

I would like to purchase a reflective address placard to assist emergency vehicles in locating my residence. I would like a quantity of _____ @ \$15.00 each for a total cost of \$_____.

Please make checks payable to Brazos County Precinct 3 VFD.

Please send this form to the Brazos County Precinct 3 VFD, P.O. Box 5453, Bryan, TX, 77805.